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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Polish Navy

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1. The present Polish Navy is comprised of two kinds of vessels: (a) vessels belonging to Poland before 1 Sep 39 and (b) vessels received from the USSR after 1945.

In the first category are:

- Destroyers: "Blyskawica" - Was built in 1936, with a displacement of 2,200 tons, speed of 39 knots. Armament: Guns: eight four inch A.A., four 40 mm A.A. Tubes: Six 21 inch (tripled), two D.C.T. Complement: 200.
- "Burza" - Built in 1921, with a displacement of 1600 tons and a speed of 33 knots. Armament: Guns: one three inch A.A., four 20 mm A.A. Tubes: three 21 inch in triple deck mounting. Complement: 160.
- Submarine: "Sep" - Built in 1938, with a displacement of 1,092 tons on surface, 1,450 tons submerged. Speed of 19 knots on surface and nine submerged. Armament: Guns: one 109 mm, two 40 mm A.A. Tubes: eight 21 inch. Complement: 56.

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Submarines: "Ryś" - Built 1929-30, with displacement of 965 tons on surface and 1,250 tons submerged, speed of 14 knots on surface and nine knots submerged. Armament: Guns: one 100 mm. Tubes: six 21 inch. Mines: 40. Complement: 45.

"Wilk"

"Zbik"

Mine-Sweepers: "Czapla" - Built between 1933 and 1938. Displacements of 150 tons, speed of 15 knots. Armament: Guns: five M.G. Complement: 30.

"Mewa"

"Rybitwa"

"Zuraw"

Training Ship: "Iskra" - Displacement of 560 tons.

In the second category are:

Mine Sweepers: "Albatros" - Built in 1944-45, with displacements of 130 tons and speed of 10 knots. Armament: Guns: two 20 mm A.A. and four M.G. Complement: 32.

"Czapla"

"Jaskółka"

"Jastrzeb"

"Kania"

"Kondor"

"Kormoran"

"Krogulec"

"Orlik"

Mine Sweepers: "Delfin" - With displacements of 215 tons and speed of 13 knots. Armament: Guns: three M.G. and two 20 mm A.A. These vessels were handed to the USSR through lend-lease by the USA and later handed on to Poland.

"Foka"

"Mors"

"Zodiak"

Submarine chasers: "Rezwzglydny" - With displacements of 40 tons, speed of 28 knots. Armament: Guns: two 20 mm A.A. and two M.G. (Blyskawiczny: four M.G.). Complement: 22.

"Blyskawiczny"

"Bystry"

"Dziarski"

"Dzielny"

"Karny"

"Niedościgly"

"Odważny"

"Smialy"

"Sprawny"

"Szybki"

Torpedo Chasers: - Four Ex-US torpedo chasers with displacement of 40 tons and speed of 38 knots. Armament: Tubes: two. Complement: 14.

2. The Polish Navy is a shore protecting fleet. The vessels of offensive character, such as destroyers and submarines, are obsolete and their value is only as training vessels. The rest are intended for laying minefields, minesweeping and police patrol service. No great change is expected in the next few years.
3. The present "Six Year Plan" foresees a considerable increase in the Polish Navy. Polish shipyards are able to build warships. Danzig Shipyard during World War I and World War II built very good submarines. The Polish Navy's shipyard at Gdynia began the building of two destroyers of the "Blyskawica" type just before World War II began in 1939. The building of light vessels, such as minesweepers, submarine chasers, etc. does not present any particular difficulty.

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4. Commander-in-Chief of the Polish Navy is the Soviet Rear Admiral Ozyrokov. Russians are in all key positions and only the lower positions are occupied by Poles, either ex-Petty Officers of the pre-World War II Polish Navy promoted to officers, or officers from Zymirski's Army who underwent sea training, or the graduates of the "Officers' College of the Polish Navy". In this college candidates for officers for the executive branch as well as technical corps are trained. Upon completing the course, some of them are sent to the USSR for special training.
5. For Soviet invasion operations against Denmark and Norway the Polish coast provides a perfect sally base. The distances for invasion operations are small (Bornholm-Kolobrzeg - 70 miles). Small ports such as Kolobrzeg, Darlowo, Ustka, etc. would be perfect points for the concentration of light vessels and transports.
6. The Soviets are preparing the Polish coast as an invasion base against Scandinavia and to the Polish Navy is given the role of keeping the sea routes to these bases clear for the Soviet Navy.

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